

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/822,263

Examiner

William L. Miller

Applicant(s)

LEDBETTER, JOHNNY R.

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to filing of 04-12-2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4,5 and 7.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 04122004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 09212005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ashkan Najafi on 09-21-2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 1, line 1, before "system" insert --mailbox-- and delete "attachable to a mailbox";

Claim 1, line 20, before "." insert --; wherein said remote means comprises a mobile transceiver being hand-operable by an operator, and a stationary transceiver being disposed within said housing and operably coupled to said identifying means; wherein said stationary transceiver generates and sends a signal to said mobile transceiver for identifying a current mode of said system, said mobile transceiver for generating and sending a responding signal to said stationary transceiver and for deactivating the current mode as desired by a user--;

Cancel claim 3;

Claim 4, line 9, change "direction" to --directing--;

Claim 5, line 1, before "system" insert --mailbox-- and delete "attachable to a mailbox";

Claim 5, line 31, before "." insert --; wherein said remote means comprises a mobile transceiver being hand-operable by an operator, and a stationary transceiver being disposed

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within said housing and operably coupled to said detector and said light assembly; wherein said stationary transceiver generates and sends a signal to said mobile transceiver for identifying a current mode of said system, said mobile transceiver for generating and sending a responding signal to said stationary transceiver and for deactivating the current mode as desired by a user--;

Cancel claim 6;

Claim 7, line 9, change "direction" to --directing--; and

Cancel claims 8-9.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claim 1, Boling Jr. (US#5607103) discloses a mailbox comprising: a housing 14 having a longitudinal axis and a substantially planar bottom surface extending parallel thereto, said housing being securable to a support stand 12 and having oppositely spaced open end portions for receiving and dispensing mail therethrough, said housing including a plurality of latches 28 disposed adjacent said end portions; and a plurality of doors 20,22 connected to said housing and adjacent said end portions thereof, said plurality of doors having a plurality of upper lip portions 30 extending substantially parallel to the axis and being slidably engageable between said housing and said plurality of latches respectively so that said plurality of doors can be maintained at a substantially stable closed position.

3. Boling fails to disclose means for identifying when mail has been placed within said housing, said identifying means being disposed partially within and partially outside of a select portion of said housing and adjacent one said plurality of doors; remote means for transmitting a signal to a user when said identifying means is activated, said remote means being operably

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connected with said identifying means; a plurality of power supply sources electrically coupled to said identifying and remote means respectively; and wherein said remote means comprises a mobile transceiver being hand-operable by an operator, and a stationary transceiver being disposed within said housing and operably coupled to said identifying means; wherein said stationary transceiver generates and sends a signal to said mobile transceiver for identifying a current mode of said system, said mobile transceiver for generating and sending a responding signal to said stationary transceiver and for deactivating the current mode as desired by a user.

4. Maddox (US#5979751) teaches a mailbox system comprising: a means for identifying 50,58 when mail has been placed within mailbox housing 14, said identifying means being disposed partially within (portion 50) and partially outside (portion 58) of a select portion of said housing; remote means (TX, pager) for transmitting a signal to a user when said identifying means is activated, said remote means being operably connected with said identifying means; a plurality of inherent power supply sources electrically coupled to said identifying and remote means respectively; and wherein said remote means comprises a mobile transceiver (pager) being hand-operable by an operator, and a stationary transceiver (TX) being disposed within said housing and operably coupled to said identifying means; wherein said stationary transceiver generates and sends a signal to said mobile transceiver for identifying a current mode of said system.

5. However, Maddox fails to teach said mobile transceiver generating and sending a responding signal to said stationary transceiver and for deactivating the current mode as desired by a user. Accordingly, the prior art of record, including Boling in view of Maddox, fails to disclose or suggest the mailbox system as claimed in detail, specifically wherein the mobile

transceiver generates and sends a responding signal to the stationary transceiver for deactivating the current mode as desired by a user.

6. Claim 5 includes the allowable subject matter discussed above and is therefore allowable for at least the same reason(s).

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William L. Miller whose telephone number is (571) 272-7068. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

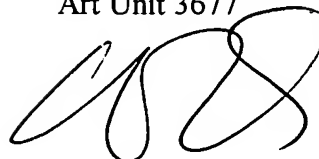
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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William L. Miller
Primary Examiner
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WLM

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and curves, positioned below the printed name and title.